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Health Department Investigates Hepatitis A Cases Linked to Local Restaurants

The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center is investigating three confirmed cases of hepatitis A believed to be linked to the Dover Straits restaurant on N. Route 45 in Mundelein, and Pine Meadow Golf Club at 1 Pine Meadow Lane in Mundelein. The first case was reported to the Health Department on Friday, August 8, while the others were reported on Tuesday, August 12. On Tuesday evening, the Department temporarily suspended the licenses of both food facilities until all their food workers have received prophylaxis.

“We are urging all those who have eaten at either restaurant between June 1 and August 2, to be aware of the signs and symptoms of hepatitis A, which are fatigue, poor appetite,

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fever and/or vomiting,” said the Health Department’s Executive Director Dale Galassie.

“If people have such signs and symptoms, we urge them to see their physician. As always, it is essential to practice good hand-washing techniques to prevent spreading illness to others.”

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused by certain viruses and other factors.

Hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus enters through the mouth, multiplies in the body and is passed in the stool. It can be carried on the hands of an infected person who does not wash his or her hands thoroughly after using the toilet. The infection can be spread by direct contact with the hepatitis A virus or when another person consumes contaminated food or drink. The single most effective way to prevent the spread of the hepatitis A virus is careful hand washing after using the restroom.

The symptoms of hepatitis A include fatigue, poor appetite, fever and vomiting. Urine may become darker. Jaundice may then appear. Symptoms can appear from 15 to 50 days after exposure, but usually within 28 to 30 days of being exposed to the virus. The disease is rarely fatal, and most people recover in a few weeks without any

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complications. Once an individual recovers from hepatitis A, he or she is typically immune for life.

For information on the signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A, please call the Health Department's hotline at: (847) 377-8350.

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